

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A surge arrester, comprising:

a stack of a plurality of cylindrical varistor blocks, which are arranged one after another in an axial direction of the varistor blocks,

an upper end electrode and a lower end electrode,

clamping members of insulating material comprising at least three loops of continuously wound ~~glass~~ fiber, which connect the upper end electrode to the lower end electrode, wherein each of said loops comprises a first strand and a second strand, wherein ~~the first strand and the second strand have asymmetrical cross sections, such that~~ a cross-section of the first strand is ~~mirror-symmetric to a mirror image of~~ a cross-section of the second strand, and wherein ~~an axis of symmetry of the cross-section of the first strand is inclined with respect to a corresponding axis of symmetry of the cross-section of the second strand, the first strand and the second strand each comprise a surface facing the varistor stack,~~

a bursting-protective bandage comprising a plurality of rings or bands wound of fiber, said bandage radially surrounding the varistor stack and the clamping loops, ~~wherein the cross sections of the loops are adapted such that shapes of the rings or bands are substantially circular,~~ and

a surrounding, electrically insulating, outer casing of rubber or other polymeric material.

2. (currently amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the

~~asymmetrical~~ cross sections of the loops are shaped and located so that not only two corners, one on either strand, make contact with the varistor stack.

3. (currently amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the ~~asymmetrical~~ cross sections of the loops are adapted to increase a contact surface against the varistor stack.

4. (currently amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the ~~asymmetrical~~ cross sections of the loops are adapted to shorten a free span of the rings or bands inside the loops.

5. (currently amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the ~~asymmetrical~~ cross sections of the loops are adapted to enable the rings or bands to be wound closer to the stack.

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the cross sections of the loops essentially correspond to two mirror-inverted rhombs or rhomboids.

8. (currently amended) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the rings or bands ~~are wound of~~ comprise aramide fiber or PBO fiber with an epoxy or vinyl ester matrix.

9. (currently presented) The surge arrester according to claim 1, wherein the varistor blocks ~~are made of~~ comprise metal oxide.